CAT STYLING COMPETITION RULES

STATEMENT OF INTENT

It is the intention of the International Society of Feline Cosmetologists (ISFC) America to provide a forum for competition in America for cat stylists while fostering and promoting high standards, education, styling opportunities, general public education, and safe and humane handling of cats.

CANDIDATE'S RESPONSIBILITY TO READ THE RULES

It is the candidate's responsibility to access, read, and comply with the official ISFC America Cat grooming certification and competition rules and regulations. Do not rely on anyone else's interpretation, as failure to abide by the rules could result in dismissal or disqualification from the competition. All U.S. Pet Pro Classic Competition General Rules & Regulations apply to the ISFC cat grooming competitions. See here for complete contest rules & regulations: https://uspetproclassic.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/Contest-Rules-and-Regulations-2027.pdf

CHECK-IN: All participants must check-in ringside with the Classic Ring Stewart no less than 30 minutes prior to the start of the Competition.

QUESTIONS: Questions regarding rules should be directed to the Contest Ring Steward while at the conference. Questions prior to the show should be directed to Conference Management at info@uspetproclassic.com or (801) 577-0109.

COMPETITION CLASSES

The U.S. Pet Pro Classic is proud to offer the following two (2) classes for cat styling competition.

Class 1: Breed Standard Competition

Entry eligibility: All interested individuals are welcome to enter the Breed Standard Class. All **long-haired cat breeds** recognized by TICA are eligible for this competition. For long-haired breeds and breed standards go to https://tica.org/.

Class Time: One and a half hour (1.5) is allotted for the class time. During this time all trimming, styling, product application and enhancements of coat must be performed.

Preparation prior to entry into contest ring: Cats must be brushed, bathed, and dried prior to entering the contest ring. Styling products (sprays, eye liners powders, chalks, etc.) used to enhance the cat's coat must be applied during the allotted time for the class. Coat must appear clean, shiny, well-brushed, and without tangles, mats or ectoparasites. **NO** styling or enhancement of coat is permitted prior to entering the contest ring.

Coat length: Prior to entering the ring, the cat must have sufficient length of coat to make a distinct difference in the overall appearance of the coat when the styling is finished.

Coat Styles: All coat styles, trimming techniques and methods (scissoring, hand stripping, plucking, clippering) are allowed. NO SHAVING IS ALLOWED (i.e. the skin must not be exposed). However, the finished look must appear to meet the "ideal breed standard as recognized by TICA. The style should also appear smooth, natural laying, balanced and symmetrical. There must also be a distinct difference in the overall appearance of the breed.

Handling Assistance: An assistant is allowed to help in the safe and humane handling of the competitor's cat. However, the assistant is NOT allowed to perform any styling or application of products or enhancements of any kind. No communication other than handling instructions is allowed between the competitor and their assistant.

Note A! All products, tools, methods, techniques, and handling MUST be safe and humane!

Note B! Nails may be trimmed prior to entering the ring.

Class 2: Pet Styling Competition

Entry eligibility: All interested individuals are welcome to enter the Pet Styling Class. All **long-haired cat breeds** recognized by TICA are eligible for this competition. For long-haired breeds and breed standards go to https://tica.org/. In addition, **all long-haired house cats** are eligible.

Class Time: Two hours is allotted for the class time. During this time all trimming, styling, product application and enhancements of coat must be performed.

Preparation prior to entry into contest ring: Cats must be brushed, bathed, and dried prior to entering the contest ring. Styling products (sprays, eye liners powders, chalks, etc.) used to enhance the cat's coat must be applied during the allotted time for the class. Coat must appear clean, shiny, well-brushed, and without tangles, mats or ectoparasites. **NO** styling or enhancement of coat is permitted prior to entering the contest ring.

Coat length: Prior to entering the ring, the cat must have sufficient length of coat to make a distinct difference in the overall appearance of the coat when styling is finished.

Coat Styles: All pattern styles, trimming techniques and methods (scissoring, hand stripping, plucking, attachment blades, clipping, etc.) are allowed. NO SHAVING IS ALLOWED (i.e. the skin must not be exposed). The finished trim should also appear smooth, balanced and symmetrical. There must also be a distinct difference in the overall appearance of the coat. The finished trim should "fit the character of the cat".

Pet Style Examples: Teddy Bear Trim, Overall Smooth Trim, Lion Trim, Lamb Trim, Bell Bottom Trims and all other pet styles. **However 50% or more of the Style must be scissored!**

Enhancement Products: Cat-safe finishing spray, hair spray, or any other substance are permitted. Non-permanent, cat-safe color, sparkles, bows, hair extensions, and other similar cat-safe embellishments are also acceptable. The use of the enhancement product application MUST be performed in the contest ring during the class' allotted time. All products must the safe for use on cats. The finishing spray, color and accessories may NOT be so excessive as to create the illusion of a "Creative" trim or conceal the pattern.

Handling Assistance: An assistant is allowed to help in the safe and humane handling of the competitor's cat. However, the assistant is NOT allowed to perform any styling or application of products or enhancements of any kind.

Note! All products, tools, methods, techniques, and handling MUST be safe and humane!

Disqualifications/Dismissals:

As determined by the class Judge(s) and/or show management, the following reasons will result in disqualification or dismissal of a competitor from the competition:

1. The cat's coat length is insufficient and/or poorly prepared.
2. External parasites (fleas, ticks, lice, etc.)
3. Competitors must check-in with the Contest Ring Steward on time, and be in the ring and ready to begin by the published "Start Time". Late setup and entry into the ring causes a disruption to contest timing and competitors. It is NOT tolerated.
4. Non-payment of entry fees.
5. Usage of unsafe products or cruel and inhumane treatment of the cat.
6. The skin MUST appear its natural color. Inflammation, nicks, cuts and tears in the skin will result in disqualification.
7. All cats must be healthy without injuries or illness. Sick or disabled cats will be dismissed from the ring.
8. Contestants that display unprofessional, disruptive or unsportsmanlike behavior will be dismissed from the contest ring and possibly the conference.
9. Contestants that clipper-shave or reverse-shave a cat's coat, such that the skin is exposed, will be disqualified.
10. Other than bathing, brushing, drying, or sanitary trims, styling or enhancement of a cat's coat prior to entering the contest ring will result in disqualification.

Disclaimer

The U.S. Pet Pro Classic staff, management and owners deeply respect and admire the breed profiles established by various cat associations worldwide. Adhering to the breed profile is also important to us, as it maintains the integrity and beauty of each breed. Our foremost priority is the welfare and well-being of the cats being styled, ensuring they receive the highest standards of care.

We understand and acknowledge that no cat breed is 100% perfect. We aim for all feline stylists to groom their cats to align closely with the ideal breed standards, highlighting their natural beauty and characteristics.

We also recognize that the contemporary professional cat world advocates for showcasing cats in their most natural form, minimizing any grooming alterations. Shears and other tools are allowed

during our competition so that participants can create an ideal illusion according to breed standard. Our intention is not to promote a complete transformation of the cats. Instead, we encourage artistic grooming that enhances the cat's natural features while respecting the breed's standards and welfare.